

Message Text

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15

ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 958

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0155

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ENRG

SUBJECT: ARAB OIL MINISTERS FEBRUARY 14 MEETING

1. SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE AND THE SECRETARY'S SUBSEQUENT PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT LIFTING OIL EMBARGO AGAINST U.S., LIBYAN GOVT-CONTROLLED MEDIA HAVE AVOIDED REACTION KEYED TO THESE SPECIFIC STATEMENTS. HOWEVER PRESS AND RADIO HAVE CRITICIZED WASHINGTON OIL CONFERENCE AND IN GENERAL OPPOSED ENDING OF EMBARGO. LARG WOULD WISH NOT TO APPEAR PUBLICLY EVEN TO HAVE ACQUIESCED IN EMBARGO LIFTING. WE HAD WONDERED WHETHER, FACED WITH PROSPECT OF BEING HOST FEB. 14 FOR THE VERY ARAB OIL MINISTERS MEETING AT WHICH LIFTING MIGHT BE ANNOUNCED, LARG MIGHT TRY TO POSTPONE MEETING OR CHANGE VENUE.

2. DURING BRIEF TALK FEB. 7 WITH PETROLEUM MINISTER MABROUK AT RECEPTION FOR AFRICAN OIL CONFERENCE CHARGE INQUIRED ABOUT FEB. 14 MEETING. IN GOOD HUMOR MABROUK MADE CLEAR HE WOULD NOT SAY A WORD ON THIS SUBJECT. SHORTLY AFTERWARD CHARGE MENTIONED FEB. 14 MEETING TO PETROLEUM UNDERSECRETARY UMAR AL-MUNTASSIR, POINTING OUT THAT OUR PATIENCE IS GETTING THIN ON EMBARGO QUESTION. MUNTASSIR SAID HE ONLY WISHED HE KNEW WHAT ASSURANCES WE HAD ON THIS. FROM THESE BARE BONES WE TEND TO BELIEVE MABROUK AND HIS DEPUTY ARE EXPECTING OIL MINISTERS TO GATHER HERE AS SCHEDULED.

STEIN

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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